

Arts, Culture and Tourism



New libraries open in Mentone and Fontana

The 7,400-square-foot Mentone Senior Center & Branch Library, the first facility in the County Library system to combine a full-service library with a senior center as an integral part of the library, opened in August. In April the county's Fontana branch moved into a new, two-story, 93,000-square-foot facility on Sierra Avenue, next door to the city's civic center. The Lewis Library & Technology Center boasts the latest in high-tech library tools, as well as loads of technology for patrons. Among the offerings are more than 200 public-access computers, a special video technology lab, Early Learning computer stations for youngsters, unique stock-car-inspired computer carrels in the teen area, and an endlessly entertaining interactive "waterfall" of words and letters at the entry to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Children's Library. The library also offers free WiFi so patrons can bring their own laptops and surf the Internet from anywhere in the building, including the full-service coffee bar. The Fontana branch was planned from the beginning as a "green" building, using many recycled materials and energy-saving features. The building will be nominated for a Silver Certificate from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.



Ground broken for new Phelan Library

On January 11 the county broke ground on a new Phelan Library, an 8,400 square-foot building that will serve as the first stand-alone public library in the area. San Bernardino County currently provides library services at a 5,000 square-foot shared facility located at Serrano High School. "That meant they could only use the library after three in the afternoon and on Saturdays. When the new branch opens later this year, people will have the same full access now enjoyed in other full-service branches in the high desert," said County Librarian Ed Kieczkowski. The new library will feature a 750 square-foot meeting room, which will be available for community use, a 600 square-foot computer training lab, a 600 square foot children's area, and a 450 square-foot young adult area. The facility will be able to support up to 30 public-access computers, which will be a significant improvement over the two public access computers currently available at the Serrano High School facility.



Regional Parks holds science camp

San Bernardino County Regional Parks Active Outdoors program division developed an Environmental Science Camp to put students in touch with science and nature and help promote conserving natural resources. The camp was held in April at Yucaipa Regional Park and offered to 4th and 5th grade students at schools in the region. Former Superintendent of Schools Herbert R. Fischer, Ph. D., and Josie Gonzales, Supervisor, Fifth District, paid a visit to the Science Camp for a first-hand glimpse of the camp's curriculum. Students are under the guidance of an experienced naturalist and given

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overviews of botany, geology and biology and taught how to better conserve natural resources and the role living things play in environmental protection.

Anglers compete for biggest catch at county trout derbies

Regional Parks held trout fishing derbies in five parks throughout the county in 2008. Participants were eligible for prizes based on the size of the fish caught in the shortest amount of time. One of the largest fish caught was at the trout derby in Yucaipa Regional Park last April, weighing in at 12 lbs. 7 oz. and caught by Jorge Estorga.

Lake Gregory hosts Dragon Boat Festival

2008's Dragon Boat festival brought people from Long Beach to San Diego to the shores of Lake Gregory Regional Park to participate in the ancient Chinese ceremonial sport. Ten teams of 12 rowers each participated in the event with ages ranging from 8 to 81. There were two 20-foot-long dragon boats weighing more than 700 pounds going along a 250-meter course. Participation in this event, as well as attendance to cheer on the teams, enjoyed a significant increase since its introduction to the Crestline community in 2007 and received considerable media coverage.

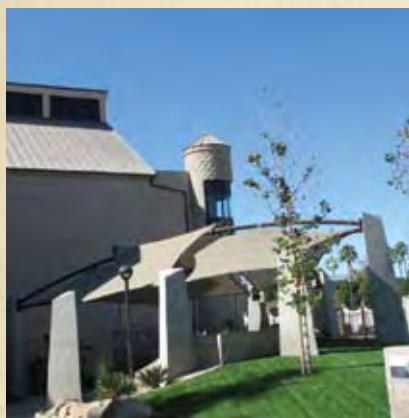


Work continues on Museum's Hansberger Hall of Geological Wonders

The San Bernardino County Museum has begun a comprehensive new initiative to expand, update, and enliven its campus and exhibit galleries to improve its educational mission by interpreting complex scientific and cultural disciplines in the context of our regional past, present, and future. The first phase of this three-phase project is the Dennis L. Hansberger Hall of Geological Wonders. Construction of the new hall drew to completion in 2008. The 12,000 square foot exhibit hall, three stories tall, connects to the existing museum. The construction phase includes an outdoor amphitheater and "green" landscaping. Exhibit fabrication is in progress and installation of interpretive displays is slated for completion in 2009.

The hall will be a fossil lover's heaven—a unique and exciting showcase for the geological and paleontologic wonders of the region. Immersive and dynamic exhibits will engage visitors in understanding and interpreting the unparalleled geologic processes, ancient environments and extinct life in southern California. Residents of Southern California have no venue that fully presents this complex story in a clear, understandable, and entertaining manner, and nowhere else can this exciting and intricate story be told with such authority and enthusiasm than at the San Bernardino County Museum.

The Hall of Geological Wonders will showcase fossils from distinct time periods, clearly explaining the complex geologic forces that have enabled such a rich record of ancient life to be preserved. Visitors will be immersed in ancient landscapes—the shores of



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a Paleozoic sea, Jurassic tidal flats, and Ice Age caves carved into mountain rock. The collections and professional staff of the San Bernardino County Museum are uniquely qualified to create dynamic presentations and interpretations of these ancient vistas.

Phase Two of this exciting initiative has already begun with the redesign and reconstruction of existing exhibit galleries (anthropology and history, with biological science to follow) using modern interpretive techniques to make our county's cultural and natural history come alive for school groups, local residents, and a growing tourist market. Phase Three will address the museum's physical campus, including construction of a conference center and a collections center, both of which will work to assure the safety and preservations of the museum's priceless collections while dedicating more space to public exhibitions and experiences. The museum is working with county, state, federal, and community funding agencies to bring about this vision for the citizens of San Bernardino County.

